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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH USSR

M. N. Kazantseva

The Board of the Ministry of Health USSR convened recently to examine reports on the state of medical aid for miners of the Stalinsk, Voroashilovgrad, Karaganda, Kemerovo, Tula, Rostov and Moscow coal fields.

In recent years the general level of health service has improved by close cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Coal Industries. In 1948 about 1,330 new doctors were assigned to mining regions. Medical supply service was also improved. Various clinics and hospitals in coal regions received 30 sanitation machines, 64 X-ray machines, 87 clinic-diagnostic laboratory units, and 63 physiotherapeutical units.

Many of the hospitals are conducting courses for specialists. In 1948, the Stalinok Hospital graduated 175 doctors who had attended specialization and advancement courses. The Voroshilovgrad Hospital graduated 110 and the Kemerovo Hospital graduated 100. Various scientific research institutes of traumatology and orthopedics in Moscow, Novosibirsk and Sverdlovsk have also been holding special courses for doctors of the coal regions.

However, it was evident that in many respects health service was below standard. Many of the young doctors working in mining areas are unable to obtain systematic aid. The leading health departments are not checking the quality of medical aid. In many of the regions, primarily in the Donbass, at Karaganda and Kuzbass, there is a lack of proper traumatological equipment, deficiencies of X-ray film and chemicals.

Many of the faults can be traced to inefficient administration. Construction and reconstruction of medical facilities is progressing very slowly because of poor administration by the Ministry of Coal Industries USSR.

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The Board ordered the Ministers of Health of the Ukrainian SSR, Kazakh SSR and of the RSFSR to recruit at least 960 new doctors from the 1949 graduates. These Ministers are to supply the Donbass region with 25 X-ray machines, the Kuzbass with 34, Voraganda with eight and three each for Tula and Rostov oblasts. X-ray film is to be placed on a critical list. Various medical institutes and the institutes of traumatology and orthopedics are to cooperate with the local health agencies at the coal regions. Oblast health departments are to provide special courses to improve the qualifications of active doctors. Unification of hospitals and polyclinics in the coal regions is to be completed by the end of 1949. There is also to be more cooperation between the various oblast health agencies.

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